WHAT I CLAIM IS:

1. In an architecture supporting a plurality of different multimedia communications protocols and applications, each application having at least one multimedia application functional entity, a common mobility management protocol shared by said different multimedia applications for messaging between a given multimedia application functional entity and a mobility management functional entity including one of an authentication function, a home location function and a visitor location function for mobility management and between two of said mobility management functional entities in the event of a mobile terminal.

2. The common mobility management protocol of claim 1 comprising an address template for defining a set of address identifiers and profile information for completing an attempted communication to an identified address and a descriptor for carrying the address information.

3. The common mobility management protocol of claim 2 wherein said descriptor comprises a unique identifier for the descriptor, a template and a functional entity identifier indicating an owning functional entity of said descriptor.

4. The common mobility management protocol as recited in claim 3 wherein said unique descriptor identifier comprises a time said descriptor last changed and said template comprises a template life field.

5. The common mobility management protocol of claim 1 wherein a message comprises common fields and message-specific data.

6. The common mobility management protocol of claim 4 wherein a descriptor update message updates a template before its life expires.

7. The common mobility management protocol of claim 4 wherein a descriptor request message results in a descriptor confirmation message identifying all templates conforming to a specified descriptor.

8. The common mobility management protocol of claim 5 wherein a service request message comprises the identity of the element and domain requesting service, supported security and a suggested lifetime for a service relationship.

9. The common mobility management protocol of claim 2 wherein said template comprises an address string including a Boolean flag indicator as a wild card.

10. The common mobility management protocol of claim 1 supported in a centralized and a distributive architecture of mobility management functional entities.

11. A method of messaging between management application functional entities and mobility management functional entities and between mobility management functional entities comprises the steps of receiving a descriptor request message at a descriptor owning functional entity, matching said descriptor request message with a plurality of templates and transmitting a descriptor confirmation message with all matching templates.

12. A method as recited in claim 11 wherein each template has an associated lifetime.

13. A method as recited in claim 11 wherein a template comprises a range of addresses indicated by the presence of a Boolean flag.

14. A method as recited in claim 11 operable in a centralized and a distributed mobility management functional entity environment.

15. A method as recited in claim 11, said descriptor owning functional entity owning a descriptor, said descriptor comprising address data, routing data and service profile data

and said method further comprises the step of resolving mobile terminal conflicts responsive to receipt of said descriptor.

16. A method as recited in claim 11 wherein said descriptor comprises a group of at least one template, said template defining one of a set of at least one address identifier and service profile data.

17. A method of messaging between management application functional entities and mobility management functional entities and between mobility management functional entities comprises the steps of receiving a validation request message at an authentication granting mobility management functional entity from a multimedia application functional entity in sequence via a visiting location mobility management functional entity and a home location mobility management functional entity and transmitting a validation confirmation message in reverse sequence from said authentication granting mobility management functional entity to said multimedia application functional entity.

18. A method of messaging as recited in claim 17 for a mobile terminal location update, the mobile terminal moving within a single logical boundary of a multimedia application functional entity.

19. A method of messaging as recited in claim 17 for a mobile terminal location update, the mobile terminal moving outside a logical boundary of a multimedia application functional entity to within the logical boundary of another multimedia application functional entity.

20. A method of messaging as recited in claim 19 further comprising the step of a home location mobility management functional entity communicating with a previously visited visitor location mobility management functional entity for descriptor update upon receipt of a validation confirmation message from said authentication granting mobility management functional entity.

21. A method of messaging between management application functional entities and mobility management functional entities and between mobility management functional entities comprises the steps of receiving an access request message at a home location mobility management functional entity from a multimedia application functional entity in sequence via a visiting location mobility management functional entity and transmitting an access confirmation message in reverse sequence from said home location mobility management functional entity to said multimedia application functional entity responsive to a request for access initiated by a mobile terminal endpoint, the mobile terminal endpoint having moved within the logical boundary of said multimedia application functional entity.

22. A method of messaging between management application functional entities and mobility management functional entities and between mobility management functional entities comprises the steps of receiving an access request message at a home location mobility management functional entity from a visited multimedia application functional entity in sequence via a visited location mobility management functional entity and transmitting an access confirmation message in reverse sequence from said home location mobility management functional entity to said multimedia application functional entity responsive to a request for access initiated by a mobile terminal endpoint, the home location mobility management functional entity further forwarding said access request to a previously visited mobility management functional entity, the mobile terminal endpoint having moved outside the logical boundary of a previously visited multimedia application functional entity.